RCMP
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

2006 REPORT

COMMISSIONER OF FIREARMS

Royal Canadian Mounted Police / Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada

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COMMISSIONER OF FIREARMS

2006 REPORT

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WHO WE ARE

Overview

From January to May 2006, the Canada Firearms Centre (CAFC) was a stand-alone agency within the portfolio of the Minister of Public Safety. On May 17, 2006, the Government of Canada transferred the responsibility for the operation of the CAFC along with the oversight of the administration and implementation of the *Firearms Act* and Canadian Firearms Program, to the RCMP. The CAFC is now an operational service line within the RCMP National Police Services (NPS) and reports directly to the Deputy Commissioner, NPS.

In 2006, the CAFC focused its efforts on supporting national and international law-enforcement agencies through information and expertise related to firearms registration and the licensing of individuals and businesses under the *Firearms Act*.

Mission

In the operation of the Canadian Firearms Program, the RCMP will continue to develop and oversee an effective firearms licensing and registration system that will ensure compliance with the *Firearms Act*. In harmony with the RCMP's goal of "Safe Homes, Safe Communities," and in support of the RCMP's strategic priorities, the CAFC will continue to:

- provide police and other organizations with expertise and information vital to the prevention and investigation of firearms crime and misuse in Canada and internationally; and
- enhance public safety by helping reduce death, injury and threat from firearms through responsible ownership and the safe use and storage of firearms.

Values and ethics

The Canadian Firearms Program maintains core values that are consistent with those of the RCMP values in that they:

- respect the lawful ownership and use of firearms in Canada and support firearms users with quality service, fair treatment and the protection of confidential information;
- recognize that the involvement of the provinces, other federal agencies, Aboriginal peoples, police organizations, firearms owners and users, safety instructors, verifiers, businesses and public-safety groups is essential for effective program delivery and success;
- commit to ongoing improvement and innovation to achieve the highest levels of service, compliance, efficiency and overall effectiveness;
- inform and engage the Canadian Firearms Program's clients;
- manage its resources prudently to provide good value for money and clear and accurate reporting of program performance and resource management; and
- uphold the values and ethical standards of the Public Service of Canada in that they commit to fair staffing, employee development and a work environment that encourages involvement and initiative.

Initiatives

The RCMP's five strategic priorities are fighting organized crime, battling terrorism, supporting youth, supporting Aboriginal communities and safeguarding Canada's economic integrity. The CAFC supports four of those five strategic priorities through the following initiatives:

Organized crime

The CAFC collaborates with the National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST) to reduce illicit trafficking of firearms supported by organized crime. The CAFC will have a greater operational-support function and presence in organized-crime investigations where firearms are involved. This includes the provision of data on firearms ownership and licensing to authorized investigators, advice on firearms origin, design and likely intended use, and other advice, as appropriate, with respect to the *Firearms Act*.

Terrorism

The CAFC is an active player in firearms-related cross-border issues. It is involved in the Cross Border Crime Forum, supports Canada's efforts at the United Nations and works with Interpol to combat the illicit trafficking in small arms. Canada is recognized globally for its firearms controls and the Canadian Firearms Program.

Youth

Although people younger than 18 years of age are not allowed to own firearms, they may obtain a licence that will allow them to borrow non-restricted long guns for purposes such as hunting and target shooting. The CAFC promotes the safe storage and handling of firearms for all gun owners and users, with a special emphasis on youth.

Aboriginal communities

In 2006, the CAFC continued to engage Aboriginal people in the Canadian Firearms Program while financially supporting Aboriginal projects designed to improve individual and community safety. For example, the CAFC pursued initiatives with First Nations in Ontario and Saskatchewan to develop a firearms safety education component for on-reserve school curricula. (For more information, see Contributions Program on page 38).

Corporate structure and infrastructure

The CAFC is now an operational service line within the RCMP National Police Services (NPS). Its Director General reports to the NPS Deputy Commissioner. The RCMP has maintained the mission statement, mandate and values of the CAFC. However, additional emphasis was placed on providing direct support to Canadian and international law-enforcement agencies by furnishing information and expertise relevant to firearms-registration information and the licensing of individuals and businesses.

The CAFC's administrative-support units were gradually merged into those of the RCMP during 2006. The savings from this merger will help reduce the cost of delivering the program to Canadians.

As of December 31, 2006, the CAFC had 357 employees located at facilities across the country.

Table 1 **Canada Firearms Centre human resources** As of December 31, 2006

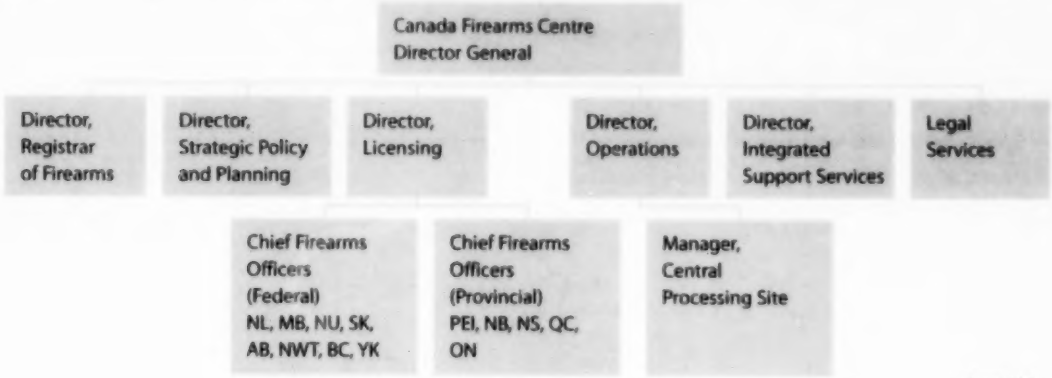
Function/Location	Personnel
Headquarters and Canadian Firearms Registry (Ottawa, Ontario)	119
Central Processing Site (Miramichi, New Brunswick)	168
Federal CFO operations (Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut)*	70
Total	**357**

Source: CAFC

* Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia have appointed their own CFOs under the *Firearms Act*. CFOs in this table are only those appointed by the federal Minister of Public Safety.

The CAFC Headquarters and the Canadian Firearms Registry are located in Ottawa. The national call centre and application-processing operations are at the Central Processing Site in Miramichi, New Brunswick. Chief Firearms Officer (CFO) operations are in place in each province. The streamlined organizational structure below outlines the CAFC's integration within NPS and the RCMP.

Chart 1 **ORGANIZATION OF THE CANADA FIREARMS CENTRE** 2006


Canada Firearms Centre
Director General
Director, Registrar of Firearms
Director, Strategic Policy and Planning
Director, Licensing
Director, Operations
Director, Integrated Support Services
Legal Services
Chief Firearms Officers (Federal) NL, MB, NU, SK, AB, NWT, BC, YK
Chief Firearms Officers (Provincial) PEI, NB, NS, QC, ON
Manager, Central Processing Site

Source: CAFC

KEY PARTNERS IN DELIVERING THE CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM

Many partners assist the CAFC in administering the Canadian Firearms Program. These include Public Safety Canada, Justice Canada, provincial Chief Firearms Officers, the Canada Border Services Agency, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, other NPS service lines and other police agencies. Each of these partners has an important role to play in delivering the Canadian Firearms Program.

Law-enforcement agencies

The CAFC and police forces across Canada share information to ensure the successful operation of the Canadian Firearms Program. For example, information provided by police and recorded in the Firearms Interest Police (FIP) database helps identify people who should not have access to firearms for public-safety reasons.

In turn, the Canadian Firearms Registry Online (CFRO), which users can access through the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC), provides police officers with critical information on firearms licensing and registration instantly. This information helps police assess risks more effectively when responding to calls, distinguish between legal firearms and illegal firearms, trace the source of registered firearms found at crime scenes and identify and return stolen and lost firearms to their rightful owners.

Other RCMP service lines

The CAFC works closely with other RCMP units to promote public safety and to deliver integrated, seamless and effective support to all Canadian law enforcement agencies. For example, the RCMP Firearms Support Section manages the Firearms Reference Table, which assists the Registrar, CFOs, customs officers and other program officials to identify and classify firearms accurately

International law enforcement

The CAFC cooperates with U.S. and other international police agencies to prevent the illegal movement of firearms across borders and facilitate their lawful activities while in Canada.

Public Safety Canada

The Minister of Public Safety has overall responsibility for the Canadian Firearms Program. The RCMP works closely with Public Safety Canada to ensure the Minister, parliamentarians and senior government officials have the information necessary to carry out their responsibilities.

Provincial Chief Firearms Officers

The *Firearms Act* gives provinces the mandate to appoint a Chief Firearms Officer to implement the *Firearms Act* within their jurisdiction. Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia have appointed their own CFOs under the *Firearms Act*. The Government of Canada funds these operations through contribution agreements between the provinces and the federal government.

If a province chooses not to appoint its own CFO, the *Firearms Act* directs that the federal minister will appoint one. In 2006, there were five federally appointed CFOs: one for Newfoundland and Labrador; one for British Columbia and the Yukon; one for Alberta and the Northwest Territories; one for Saskatchewan; and one for Manitoba and Nunavut.

CFOs are responsible for issuing firearms licences to businesses and individuals. The *Firearms Act* and supporting regulations give them the authority to refuse to issue a licence or to revoke a licence if a public-safety risk is identified. Within their jurisdictions, CFOs also oversee the delivery of safety training, approve shooting ranges, issue authorizations to transport and carry restricted and prohibited firearms, and conduct inspections.

Canada Border Services Agency

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is responsible for assessing and confirming non-resident firearms declarations and collecting the applicable fees consistent with the provisions of the *Firearms Act* and other relevant legislation. This involves identifying the classification, destination and purpose of firearms that are being imported. The CBSA also assesses, the eligibility of the importer and ensures that all firearms are being transported safely and in accordance with the law. Once confirmed, a non-resident firearms declaration serves as a temporary licence and registration certificate.

Department of Justice Canada

The Minister of Justice is responsible for the *Criminal Code of Canada*, including *Part III (Firearms and Other Weapons)*. Policy development on criminal law related to firearms requires close cooperation between the CAFC and the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice also provides legal advice, drafting services and litigation services to the CAFC.

Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada

The CAFC works with Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada to ensure Canada's international commitments regarding firearms reflect domestic Canadian priorities as well as Canada's capacity to implement them. The CAFC also collaborates with Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada to ensure that importers are aware of their obligations under the *Firearms Act*. Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada also issues the permits required to export and import firearms under the *Export and Import Permits Act*.

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

II

OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

Several events had a particularly significant impact on CAFC priorities in 2006. These included:

- policy directives introduced by the Government of Canada;
- the tabling of the Auditor General's follow-up audit on the Canadian Firearms Program; and
- gun violence in Canadian society.

Requirements by the Government of Canada

In May 2006, the Government of Canada introduced three key changes to the Canadian Firearms Program: a two-year waiver of fees for the renewal or upgrade of firearms licences for individuals; a one-year amnesty to protect currently and previously licensed individuals from criminal liability for possession of unregistered, non-restricted firearms; and the transfer of responsibility for the CAFC and the Canadian Firearms Program to the RCMP. Previously planned outreach activities and priorities for 2006-2007 were put on hold to allow the CAFC time to align itself with the new initiatives.

Auditor General's Report on the Canadian Firearms Program

In May 2006, the Auditor General tabled a report on the Canadian Firearms Program. In this follow-up to her December 2002 report, she noted that the CAFC had made satisfactory progress in implementing recommendations on financial reporting and had established adequate financial systems. The 2006 report also stated that the CAFC had met several operating challenges, such as spreading out the timing of the required five-year licence renewals, expanding services and consolidating its application-processing sites.

The reporting of the development costs for the Canadian Firearms Information System II (CFIS II) raised some concerns. These were outlined in the Auditor General's report, *Government Decisions Limited Parliament's Control of Public Spending*, and were not directed at the CAFC.

The RCMP accepted the recommendations in both reports and is developing an action plan that will address the concerns and recommendations pertaining to them.

As part of the transfer of the responsibility for the CAFC to the RCMP, a transition team was created to assist with the integration and address operational issues identified by the Auditor General. An example of an RCMP process being integrated into the CAFC is the balanced scorecard performance-measurement tool.

A complete list of actions and initiatives in response to the Auditor General's report will be published in upcoming RCMP departmental performance reports (DPRs).

For the immediate future, the CAFC will focus on the implementation of methods and practices to address recommendations stemming from the Auditor General's report and the improvement of licensing and registration.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Following the tabling of the Auditor General's report, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (PAC) considered the findings contained in both Chapter 4 on the Canadian Firearms Program and the special chapter on the control of public spending. The Committee heard from the Auditor General and her officials, as well as from representatives from the Treasury Board Secretariat, the Office of the Comptroller General, the RCMP, the Department of Justice and previous CAFC management.

The Committee issued its findings and recommendations in October 2006 (Ninth Report) and in December 2006 (Tenth Report). The RCMP accepted the recommendations pertaining to the CAFC and committed to implementing all but the recommendation to eliminate the verifiers network. This network was retained but the RCMP implemented a new verification process to improve data quality on the descriptions of firearms. The recommendations and responses will be published in future RCMP departmental performance reports.

Transfer to the RCMP

The transfer of the CAFC and responsibility for the Canadian Firearms Program to the RCMP in May 2006 enabled more effective alignment of gun-control measures with law-enforcement efforts to combat gun crime. The integration of administrative and operational functions such as human resources, procurement services and financial management with those of the RCMP will improve efficiency and reduce costs.

CAFC staff continue to provide their expertise in the licensing of individuals and businesses, the registering of firearms, and other operations of the Canadian Firearms Program. During the transition, service to Canadians was maintained without interruption.

The RCMP has built on partnerships established by the CAFC to ensure the continued success of the Canadian Firearms Program in meeting the Government of Canada's commitments.

Canadian Firearms Information System

The Canadian Firearms Information System (CFIS) is a national system designed to support the administration of the *Firearms Act*. CFIS records and tracks specific information on firearms and licence holders, and makes this information available to police agencies and other authorized clients.

In April 2006, prior to the transfer of the CAFC to the RCMP, Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) issued a notice of default and stop-work order on further CFIS II application development and testing.

In June 2006, at the request of PWGSC, the RCMP conducted a review of the CFIS II project. This was supported by an independent third party. The results of the RCMP review concluded that the development of the CFIS II software application was unlikely to succeed, that the partially implemented network component failed to meet performance requirements and that the current CFIS I system is stable and capable of meeting existing legislative and business requirements. Development work on CFIS II was stopped. A decision was made to improve CFIS I, as required, to meet evolving needs.

Gun violence in Canadian society

Following the tragic criminal event that occurred at Dawson College in Montreal in September 2006, the government initiated a review of the eligibility-screening process for individuals in possession of firearms. The CAFC developed a strategy to enhance screening of first-time applicants for restricted-firearms licences. Scheduled for implementation in 2007, it will involve more telephone interviews, more reference checks and greater scrutiny of restricted-firearms licence applications. Along with strong laws to combat gangs that use firearms, more effective border controls to combat the illicit cross-border trafficking of firearms and more front-line law-enforcement officers, this will help maintain the highest standards of public safety.

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC SAFETY

III

The Canadian Firearms Program plays a vital role in enhancing safe and healthy communities across Canada by helping to protect Canadians from firearms-related deaths, injuries, threats and crime. The program has several core activities that promote safe homes and communities. These include safety training, the screening and licensing of businesses and individuals and the registration of firearms. Core activities also include regulating and promoting safe firearms practices and ensuring effective border controls. The CAFC also provides support to police and law-enforcement agencies, and coliaborates with the criminal justice system.

CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM
Safety Training
Licensing—Continuous Eligibility Screening
Firearms Registration—Supporting Police and Law Enforcement
Safe Storage and Safe Transportation of Firearms
Support to and Collaboration with the Criminal Justice System
Effective Border Controls
Safe Homes, Safe Communities

Core activities

A. Safety training

Firearms education is a fundamental element of the Canadian Firearms Program. All first-time licence applicants must pass the Canadian Firearms Safety Course or be alternatively certified. Those who wish to be licensed to acquire and possess restricted firearms such as handguns must also pass the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course or obtain alternative certification. The mandatory safety-training requirement helps ensure that firearms owners and users are fully aware of their responsibility for the safe use, handling, transport and storage of firearms.

Throughout 2006, the demand for safety training came primarily from those who were applying for their first licence, those who were upgrading from a licence with possession-only privileges to a licence with possession and acquisition privileges, and those who were upgrading acquisition privileges to include restricted firearms.

The CAFC revised the student manuals for the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course to reflect amendments to the *Firearms Act* and its supporting regulations. The cover was also modified to reflect the RCMP identity. Production and distribution of the new manuals took place in mid-2006.

Table 2 **Individuals who completed safety training** 2006

Type of training	Total
Canadian Firearms Safety Course	**55,452**
Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety Course	**11,034**
Alternative certification	**4,512**
Total	**70,998**

Source: CAFC

B. Licensing—Continuous eligibility screening

The *Firearms Act* requires that individuals must hold a valid firearms licence to possess or acquire firearms or ammunition. Firearms owners must renew their licences every five years.

The licence requirement helps to protect public safety in a variety of ways:

- Safety training for first-time licence applicants helps ensure that firearms owners and users know how to use, handle, transport and store firearms safely.
- Background checks on licence applicants help screen out individuals who are a risk to public safety. These include people with a criminal record or other documented history of violence, drug traffickers and individuals with serious mental illnesses.
- Public safety checks on licence holders are ongoing. A licence may be revoked and firearms may be removed if new evidence shows that it is not safe to allow the licence holder to continue to possess firearms.
- It is a criminal offence for any business or individual to give, lend or sell firearms to an unlicensed person.

Types of licences for individuals

For Canadian residents 18 and older

- *Possession and Acquisition Licence (PAL):* This is the only licence currently available to new applicants and to individuals whose licence has expired. To be eligible, applicants must meet established safety-training standards.
- *Possession-Only Licence (POL):* This licence was introduced as a means to recognize long-term ownership of firearms. It allows people to retain their firearms without having to undergo safety training. The POL was only available to individuals who applied by January 1, 2001. It is no longer available to new applicants. POL holders may renew their licence if they apply before their licence expires and they have at least one firearm registered in their name.

For non-residents 18 years of age or older

- A *Non-resident Firearms Declaration* that has been confirmed by a customs officer has the effect of a temporary licence for up to 60 days. Non-residents who have passed the Canadian Firearms Safety Course may apply for a five-year Possession and Acquisition Licence.

For individuals between the ages of 12 and 17

- *Minor's Licence:* Although people younger than 18 years of age may not acquire firearms of their own, this licence allows them to borrow non-restricted rifles and shotguns for approved purposes such as hunting or target shooting. To be eligible for this licence, individuals must be at least 12 years old and meet safety-training requirements unless they need to hunt to sustain themselves and their families. Once they turn 18, the only licence available to them is the Possession and Acquisition Licence.

Table 3 **TYPE OF LICENCE ISSUED BY JURISDICTION** 2006

Jurisdiction	POL	PAL	Minor	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	4,381	10,659	88	**15,128**
Nova Scotia	6,570	6,034	454	**13,058**
Prince Edward Island	432	691	2	**1,125**
New Brunswick	6,197	6,124	48	**12,369**
Quebec	28,755	73,492	16	**102,263**
Ontario	34,001	65,278	1,935	**101,214**
Manitoba	3,457	10,690	104	**14,251**
Saskatchewan	3,923	11,318	44	**15,285**
Alberta	8,935	24,110	311	**33,356**
British Columbia	12,051	22,124	92	**34,267**
Yukon	211	885	22	**1,118**
Northwest Territories	100	1,013	20	**1,133**
Nunavut	13	768	0	**781**
Total	**109,026**	**233,186**	**3,136**	**345,348**

Source: CAFC

Note: The numbers of licences issued include new licences as well as renewals.

As shown in Table 4 a total of 1,908,011 individuals held a valid firearms licence on December 31, 2006. This is a decrease of 71,043 (3.6 percent) from the previous year.

Reasons for the decline include an aging population and a rural-to-urban migration trend. The number of older licence holders who are dying or disposing of their firearms is greater than the number of new applicants.

Table 4 **TOTAL VALID FIREARMS LICENCE BY JURISDICTION** As of December 31, 2006

Jurisdiction	POL	PAL	Minor	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	41,046	29,955	128	**71,129**
Nova Scotia	64,073	19,766	981	**84,820**
Prince Edward Island	5,659	1,993	2	**7,654**
New Brunswick	66,741	17,957	59	**84,757**
Quebec	275,925	234,691	55	**510,671**
Ontario	291,681	230,012	3,712	**525,405**
Manitoba	49,127	36,578	227	**85,932**
Saskatchewan	56,111	43,308	144	**99,563**
Alberta	113,067	97,167	674	**210,908**
British Columbia	127,770	83,789	178	**211,737**
Yukon	2,206	3,587	53	**5,846**
Northwest Territories	1,614	4,018	31	**5,663**
Nunavut	265	3,661	0	**3,926**
Total	**1,095,285**	**806,482**	**6,244**	**1,908,011**

Source: CAFC

In May 2006, the Government of Canada announced a two-year waiver of licence-renewal fees to facilitate compliance with the law. Licence holders who had already paid a fee to renew their licence were issued a refund.

The CAFC processed and refunded approximately $21 million to firearms owners by the end of 2006. The special refund telephone line received more than 16,600 calls between May 25 and December 31, 2006. Table 5 provides a breakdown of the number of cheques and refunds issued by jurisdiction.

Table 5 **REFUNDS ISSUED BY JURISDICTION** AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2006

Jurisdiction	Number of refunds	Total dollar amount
Newfoundland and Labrador	16,726	**$987,855**
Nova Scotia	13,808	**$827,860**
Prince Edward Island	976	**$58,690**
New Brunswick	13,486	**$805,444**
Quebec	103,765	**$6,018,746**
Ontario	99,448	**$6,021,605**
Manitoba	13,956	**$839,466**
Saskatchewan	14,494	**$942,335**
Alberta	31,844	**$2,002,183**
British Columbia	35,158	**$2,190,844**
Yukon	1,083	**$67,834**
Northwest Territories	765	**$46,484**
Nunavut	228	**$14,669**
Total	**345,737**	**$20,824,014**

Source: CAFC

Screening of licence applicants (individuals)

When an individual applies for a firearms licence, information from the application form is entered in the Canadian Firearms Information System (CFIS) at the Central Processing Site in Miramichi, New Brunswick. A link between CFIS and the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) system helps speed the background checks of licence applicants. Once the information is entered, the system runs an automatic check of CPIC to determine, for example, if the applicant has a criminal record or if there are any court orders prohibiting the individual from possessing firearms.

The system also checks a special file within CPIC called Firearms Interest Police (FIP) created specifically to support the licence requirements of the *Firearms Act*. This file contains information captured by law-enforcement officers across Canada after encountering individuals who have raised public-safety concerns but who may not have been charged with an offence.

Previously, such information may have been recorded in local police files, but there was no centralized database. Centralizing the information makes it easier to restrict individuals who are known to be a potential risk in one area of Canada from obtaining a licence in another area where they may not be known. Use of CPIC ensures the privacy of this information will be strictly protected.

Another measure that helps to assess a licence applicant's suitability to possess firearms is the requirement for licence applicants to provide information on spouses or conjugal partners with whom they have lived within the previous two years. Unless such partners have already signed the application, the Chief Firearms Officer in the applicant's province has a duty to notify them about the application or conduct a further investigation. This provides partners an opportunity to express any concerns they may have about their own or someone else's safety in connection with an application.

Each licence application must also be signed by two references who have known the applicant for at least three years, certifying that they do not know of any reason why it may be unsafe to allow the applicant to possess firearms.

The general public also plays an important role in identifying people whose possession of firearms may present a danger to other people or to themselves. For example, if someone is severely depressed and may be suicidal, or has been unusually aggressive, hostile or irrational, observers are encouraged to call local police and the CAFC's toll-free telephone number. If the circumstances warrant, the licence and registration certificates may be revoked or conditions may be placed on the licence. Police may also be notified regarding further action that may be required.

Chief Firearms Officers are responsible for conducting investigations deemed necessary to assess whether individuals in their province are eligible to hold a firearms licence.

Once a licence has been issued, background checks are ongoing through a process known as continuous eligibility. CFIS checks CPIC daily to see if there is any new information indicating that a licence holder may have become a public-safety risk. If concerns are identified, CFIS automatically notifies the appropriate Chief Firearms Officer.

Licence refusals and revocations

Once a firearms licence has been refused or revoked, it is a criminal offence for an individual to possess or acquire firearms.

Firearms prohibitions

The *Firearms Act* requires the courts to notify the Chief Firearms Officer of all firearms-prohibition orders. In addition, firearms prohibition and probation orders are captured in the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) Persons File and are part of the background check and continuous eligibility checks. In 2006, according to CPIC, approximately 176,000 individuals were subject to these orders.

As seen in Chart 2, this is a significant increase from previous years. This variance is a result of using the CPIC system as the source of statistics for the number of persons prohibited from possessing firearms as of 2006. The variance is further explained by new mandatory prohibitions for certain drug offence charges and convictions.

Access to CPIC information has been facilitated by the CAFC's alignment with the RCMP. In previous years, statistics reflected data entered into CFIS by CFOs, based on notices of court-ordered prohibitions received in each jurisdiction.

If a licence applicant is linked to a prohibition order, they are refused a licence and issued a notice with the particulars of the court order.

If a prohibition order is issued to someone who already holds a licence, the person will be instructed to turn in their licence and dispose of their firearms. Upon being informed of a prohibition order, the CFO will revoke the licence administratively. In addition, the Registrar of Firearms will revoke the registration certificates of firearms registered to the person and provide instructions on how to dispose of firearms lawfully. Any registration applications being processed will be refused.

Chart 2 **PERSONS PROHIBITED FROM POSSESSING FIREARMS** 1999-2006

The Canadian Firearms Program also relies on information from municipal, provincial and federal courts to determine whether there are any matters of a civil nature—for example, a restraining order—that may indicate that a licence applicant or licence holder is a threat to public safety. Unlike prohibition orders, court orders pertaining to civil matters are not recorded in CPIC. A match against these court orders may result in the CFO conducting an investigation that may lead to a revocation or a change in licence conditions.

In all other situations where a public-safety concern about a licence applicant or licence holder has been identified, the CFO in that jurisdiction will conduct an investigation to assess the risk of allowing the person to possess firearms. This is done before deciding whether to refuse or revoke a licence. If a licence is refused or revoked, the affected individual may refer the matter to a provincial court for review.

Licence refusals

The number of licence refusals per year has been dropping since the 2001 deadline for firearms owners to obtain a licence. Most licences issued in 2006 were renewals of expiring licences held by individuals who had already established their eligibility to possess firearms. In 2006, 400 applicants were refused a licence.

Chart 3 **LICENCE REFUSALS** 1999-2006

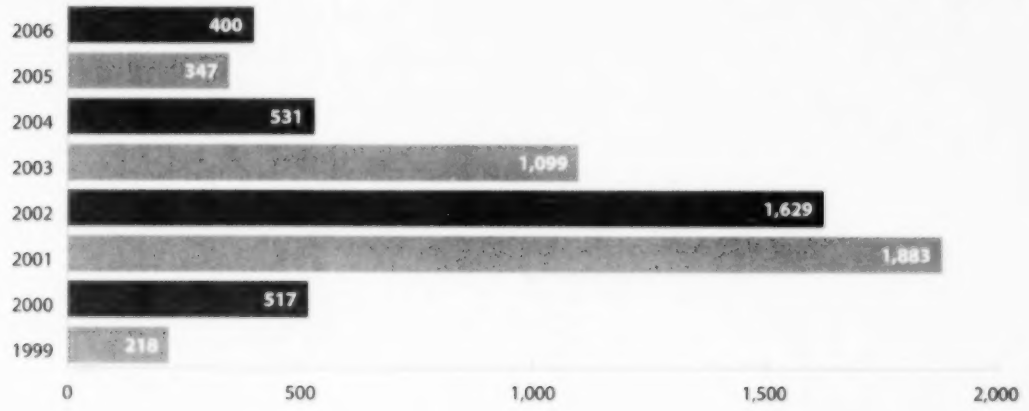
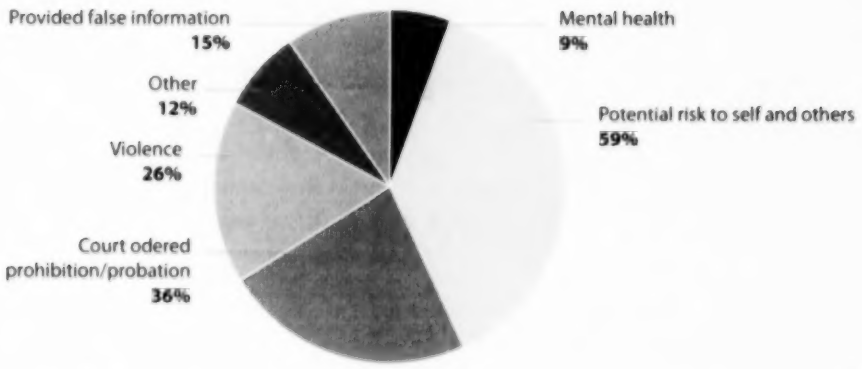


Chart 4 represents the breakdown of reasons for refusing to grant a licence.

Chart 4 **REASONS FOR LICENCE REFUSAL*** AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2006



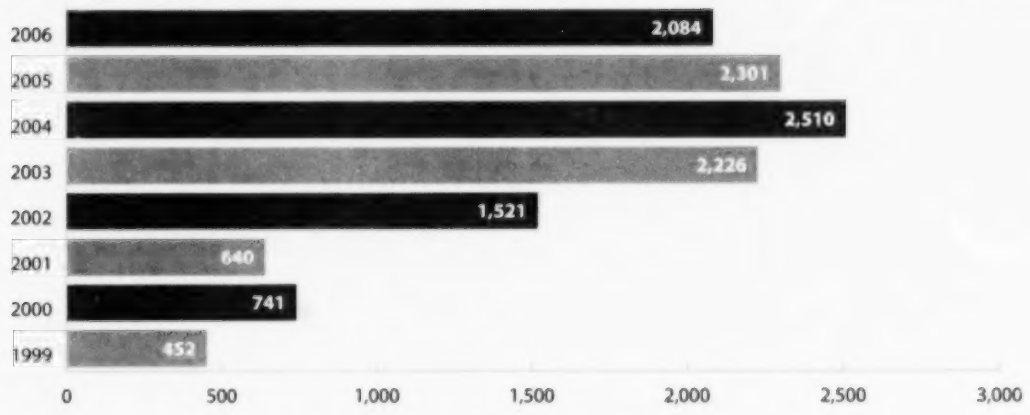
Source: CAFC

* A firearms officer may have multiple reasons for refusing a licence.

Licence revocation

In 2006, continuous-eligibility screening matched 3,526 court prohibition orders, probation orders and civil orders with 2,923 CFIS clients. Of the 2,084 licences revoked in 2006, 1,581 were the result of a court order.

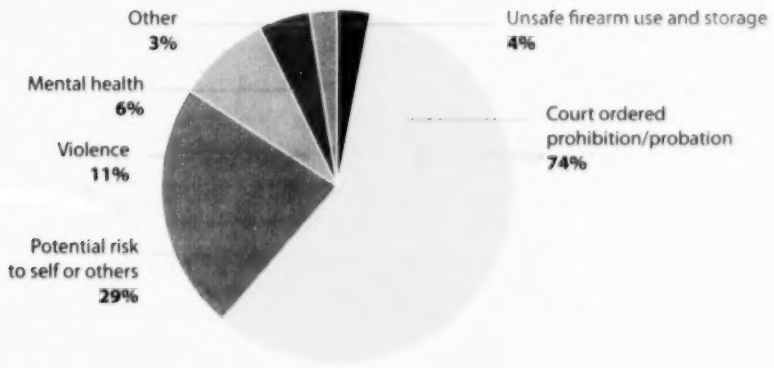
Chart 5 **NUMBER OF LICENCE REVOCATIONS** 1999-2006



When a Chief Firearms Officer revokes a firearms licence from an individual who has registered firearms, the Registrar of Firearms revokes the individual's firearms registration certificates and notifies local police.

Chart 6 represents the breakdown of reasons for revoking a licence up to December 31, 2006.

Chart 6 **REASONS FOR LICENCE REVOCATIONS*** AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2006



Source: CAFC

* A firearms officer may have multiple reasons for revoking a licence.

Licence renewals

People who possess firearms must keep their licence current by renewing it before it expires. Requiring licence renewals takes into consideration the fact that a person's circumstances may change over time. The onset of a serious mental condition or a personal crisis could turn someone who had previously been deemed to be a low public-safety risk into a high public-safety risk.

Possession-only Licences and Possession and Acquisition Licences are renewable every five years. In 2006, most of the licences issued were renewals of expiring licences.

To encourage and assist firearms owners to comply with the licence-renewal requirement, the CAFC sends a renewal notice with an application form to licence holders 90 days before their licence expires. The form is partially populated with information already on file. Clients simply have to validate the information and correct or update information that needs to be changed. It simplifies the process for the clients and increases processing efficiency. This has led to a 20 percent reduction in applications that require the involvement of a firearms officer.

Firearms owners who have not taken any action to renew their licence are sent a second notice 30 days before their licence expires.

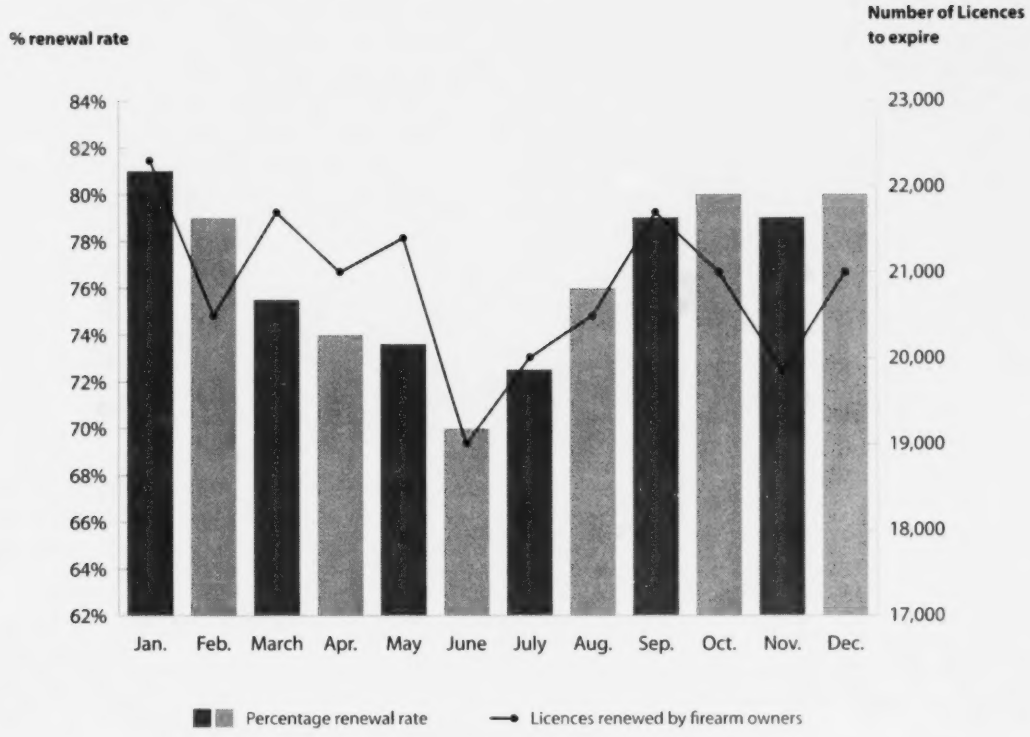
Notices are sent to the address on record. As a condition of their licence, licence holders are required to inform their Chief Firearms Officer of a change of address within 30 days to ensure they get renewal notices and other important information.

The licence-renewal rate for firearms owners averaged 76 percent in 2006. About 76,800 firearms owners allowed their licence to expire, resulting in the illegal possession of about 234,000 firearms in 2006 alone.

Efforts were undertaken to help firearms owners comply with the law. The government introduced an amnesty to protect certain previously licensed individuals from criminal liability for possession of unregistered, non-restricted firearms while they attempt to obtain a valid licence. As Chart 7 shows, licence renewals started to decline at the beginning of 2006, but resumed an upward trend in July.

The CAFC has taken steps to follow up with both clients and law-enforcement agencies to ensure the proper disposal of firearms belonging to individuals who have not renewed their licences.

Chart 7 **RATE OF LICENCE RENEWAL BY FIREARMS OWNERS** 2006



Firearms business licences and inspections

Businesses, museums and private-sector organizations must hold a valid firearms business licence if they manufacture or possess firearms, prohibited weapons other than firearms, prohibited devices or prohibited ammunition. While a firearms business licence is also required to manufacture or sell regular ammunition, it is not required for simple possession of regular ammunition.

Table 6 **BUSINESS LICENCES ISSUED BY JURISDICTION** 2006

Jurisdiction	Business
Newfoundland and Labrador	**74**
Nova Scotia	**39**
Prince Edward Island	**7**
New Brunswick	**59**
Quebec	**298**
Ontario	**336**
Manitoba	**87**
Saskatchewan	**105**
Alberta	**136**
British Columbia	**181**
Yukon	**4**
Northwest Territories	**13**
Nunavut	**13**
Total	**1,352**

Source: CAFC

Note: The numbers of licences issued to businesses include new licences as well as renewals.

When businesses apply for a licence, they are required to identify the business purposes for possessing these items. The licence will be valid only for the purposes approved by the Chief Firearms Officer and specified on the licence. Of the 4,430 businesses licensed under the *Firearms Act*, 2,457 were licensed only to sell ammunition in 2006.

Employees who handle firearms on the job must also hold a valid firearms licence.

As a condition of their licences, businesses must consent to inspections by a firearms officer to confirm that they are safely storing firearms and other regulated items, and that they are conducting business in a lawful manner.

Shooting clubs and ranges

The requirement for shooting clubs and ranges to hold a firearms business licence depends on the activities taking place at the club or range. However, all shooting clubs and ranges require approval from a Chief Firearms Officer to operate and they must consent to periodic inspections by firearms officers.

The *Firearms Act* and its supporting regulations set out specific safety standards that shooting clubs and ranges must meet to protect the safety of patrons and the general public. In addition, range design and construction guidelines are provided to ensure that ranges are constructed in such a way as to protect the safety of users and the public.

There were 734 approved shooting clubs and 1,206 approved shooting ranges in Canada as of December 31, 2006.

C. Firearms registration—Supporting police and law enforcement

CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM AT WORK

After finding firearms in the possession of an unlicensed person, police checked the Canadian Firearms Registry Online. They discovered that the items were registered to someone with an unusually large collection of firearms. When the registered owner was asked to produce his other firearms for inspection, he could not do so. A further investigation revealed that the owner had been acquiring firearms legally and then selling them on the black market. The individual was charged with firearms trafficking. The CAFC provided an affidavit to assist with the prosecution.

Registration requirements

The *Firearms Act* requires that all non-restricted, restricted and prohibited firearms in Canada must be registered. Any firearms registered under the former law (prior to December 1998) needed to be re-registered to update the information and link the registration to the owner's licence.

By linking firearms to their owners, registration holds firearms owners accountable for their firearms. Registration also supports the efforts of police and law enforcement to deal with firearms-related crime and protect community safety.

A one-year amnesty introduced by the government in May 2006 protected certain owners of unregistered, non-restricted firearms from criminal liability for unauthorized possession of unregistered, non-restricted firearms while they took steps to comply with the law. The amnesty order offered protection only to individuals with a valid or recently expired licence. Since firearms may be registered only to someone with a valid licence, individuals who had let their licences expire needed to obtain a new licence before their firearms could be registered.

Table 7 indicates the number of firearms that were registered to an individual or business for the first time in 2006. These include newly imported and newly manufactured firearms.

Table 7 **NEWLY REGISTERED FIREARMS BY JURISDICTION** 2006

Jurisdiction	Non-restricted	Restricted	Prohibited	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,112	149	16	2,277
Nova Scotia	1,148	516	150	1,814
Prince Edward Island	140	3	6	149
New Brunswick	1,027	74	160	1,261
Quebec	43,706	6,087	1,886	51,679
Ontario	225,155	19,970	10,375	255,500
Manitoba	15,222	679	134	16,035
Saskatchewan	1,874	217	184	2,275
Alberta	26,187	2,939	354	29,480
British Columbia	7,749	3,015	462	11,226
Yukon	261	10	18	289
Northwest Territories	88	13	20	121
Nunavut	61		1	62
Outside Canada	721			721
Total	325,451	33,672	13,766	372,881

Source: CAFC

The table below represents all registered firearms in Canada as of December 31, 2006. These firearms are registered to individuals or businesses, including museums. Also included are firearms that were registered to a business or individual, but then transferred to a public agency.

Table 8 **REGISTERED FIREARMS IN CANADA** AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2006

Province	Non-Restricted	Restricted	Prohibited	Total
Newfoundland and Labrador	177,019	3,744	1,644	**182,407**
Nova Scotia	285,187	14,432	7,911	**307,530**
Prince Edward Island	21,713	1,431	801	**23,945**
New Brunswick	262,767	10,858	5,852	**279,477**
Quebec	1,519,003	55,272	50,245	**1,624,520**
Ontario	1,966,770	156,305	88,265	**2,211,340**
Manitoba	307,502	14,671	6,752	**328,925**
Saskatchewan	354,855	21,080	8,654	**384,589**
Alberta	743,217	68,165	24,295	**835,677**
British Columbia	742,560	76,556	31,197	**850,313**
Yukon	19,245	1,326	439	**21,010**
Northwest Territories	17,731	1,004	343	**19,078**
Nunavut	10,602	139	48	**10,789**
Non-residents	22,300	396	170	**22,866**
Total	**6,450,471**	**425,379**	**226,616**	**7,102,466**

Source: CAFC

Registration certificates issued under the *Firearms Act* remain valid unless the firearm is modified so that its description changes significantly or the firearm changes ownership. Any time a firearm is transferred to a new owner, the records must be updated to deregister the firearm from the original owner and register it to the new owner. This is done through the transfer process.

Registration revocations

The Registrar of Firearms is obligated under the *Firearms Act* to revoke registration certificates held by anyone who is no longer authorized to possess firearms.

Firearms owners whose registration certificates have been revoked are sent a notice advising them that they must dispose of their firearms. They are provided with four options for lawfully disposing of a firearm. The firearm may be:

- permanently deactivated by a licensed gunsmith who ensures that the firearm can no longer fire harmful projectiles and, therefore, no longer meets the definition of a firearm;
- turned over to police or a firearms officer for destruction;
- exported to a country that allows it to be imported, in accordance with Canada's export laws and the other country's import laws; or
- transferred (sold or given) to a properly licensed business or individual, or to a public agency.

Local police are notified if a firearms owner fails to take action to comply with the law within 45 days of being issued a revocation notice.

The Canadian Firearms Registry monitors the disposition of registered firearms. This not only assists in understanding the movement of firearms, but can also be crucial in crime investigations.

Table 9 shows the number of registered firearms that were reported to have been deactivated, destroyed by police or exported by individuals between January 1 and December 31, 2006.

Table 9 **FIREARM DISPOSAL** 2006

Method	Non-restricted	Restricted	Prohibited	Total
Deactivated	616	175	458	1,249
Destroyed	3,550	368	8,049	11,967
Exported	652	83	129	864
Total	4,818	626	8,636	14,080

Source: CAFC

D. Safe storage and transportation of firearms

Regulations supporting the *Firearms Act* set out specific requirements for handling, storing, displaying and transporting firearms safely. The *Criminal Code* sets out penalties for doing so in an unsafe manner. These laws help prevent accidents and deter loss, theft and misuse by helping to keep firearms out of the reach of those who should not have access to them and by making firearms less accessible during times of strife or emotional crisis.

CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM AT WORK

A website showed a group of young people posing with numerous firearms while drinking and partying. Local police were able to identify the name and address of one of the individuals. An investigation of registration records indicated that someone else at that address, believed to be the father, had a collection of prohibited, restricted and non-restricted firearms resembling the ones shown online. With this information, RCMP officers obtained a Public Safety Search Warrant and seized 19 firearms. *Criminal Code* charges of unsafe usage and storage of the firearms were laid.

All firearms must be stored unloaded. Non-restricted firearms must be made inoperable either by means of a secure locking device or by removing the bolt. Alternatively, they can be securely locked in a container, cabinet or room that cannot easily be breached. Ammunition must be stored separately unless it is locked up. Additional requirements applying to restricted and prohibited firearms can be found on the CAFC website.

To transport restricted or prohibited firearms, individuals must obtain a written Authorization to Transport (ATT) from a Chief Firearms Officer. ATTs protect public safety by setting limits on where, when and for what purpose specific restricted or prohibited firearms may be transported. As set out in the *Firearms Act*, Chief Firearms Officers may authorize the transport of restricted or prohibited firearms only if they are satisfied that it would not endanger public safety. To further protect public safety, ATTs specify that the firearms must be transported to the intended location by a reasonably direct route to minimize the risk of mishaps along the way.

ATTs also provide a means of tracking the current location of handguns and other restricted or prohibited firearms. In 2006, a total of 63,057 ATTs were issued for the purpose of transporting restricted or prohibited firearms.

Public education about the safe storage, transportation and display of firearms is essential to furthering the RCMP's objectives of public safety and crime prevention. The CAFC's *Be Safe* pamphlet, which highlights the rules for storing, displaying and transporting firearms safely, is very popular among all types of clients. It is also used by Chief Firearms Officers and safety-course instructors. In 2006, the CAFC distributed more than 360,000 copies of this pamphlet across Canada.

E. Support to and collaboration with the criminal justice system

Supporting the criminal justice system's efforts to protect public safety and investigate and prosecute firearms-related crimes is a priority of the Canadian Firearms Program. Support is provided in a variety of ways.

Canadian Firearms Registry Online (CFRO)

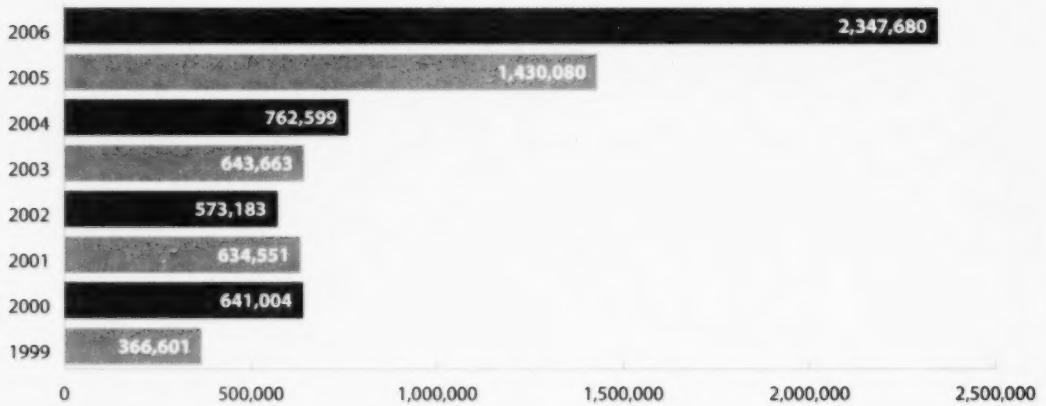
CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM AT WORK

The RCMP National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST) conducted CFRO checks on someone who had reportedly pointed a firearm at a co-worker and threatened to kill him. This check confirmed that the suspect had a valid firearms licence and nine registered long guns. With a warrant, police seized all nine guns along with a quantity of ammunition.

CFRO is a subset of the Canadian Firearms Information System. It is available to police agencies through the CPIC system to assist them in responding to calls and conducting investigations. As a searchable software application, police officers may use CFRO to query firearms-related information such as the serial number or registration certificate number of a firearm, or the name, address and firearms licence number of an individual. For example, if police are called to an address to deal with a dispute, they can check CFRO to find out if anyone at that address holds a valid firearms licence and what firearms are registered to that person.

Chart 8 shows that CFRO queries increased by nearly 53 percent, to an average of 6,432 queries per day in 2006, as several police forces made policy decisions to query CFRO more consistently. For example, in 2006, the Toronto Police Service set up their interface system so that any query of a person or address in CPIC would automatically result in a query of CFRO. Making this information readily available helps police to protect themselves and the public when they investigate a situation.

Chart 8 **Total Annual CFRO Queries**



In addition, the CAFC operates a special service to respond to questions police may have about licences, firearms or the *Firearms Act*. In 2006, the CAFC answered 2,652 calls, e-mails and faxes—an average of more than seven queries per day—from law enforcement officers across Canada.

Law-enforcement officers across Canada may obtain assistance from the National Weapons Enforcement Support Team (NWEST) when investigating the criminal misuse of firearms. The CAFC supports this specialized network of police officers. NWEST is operated by the RCMP's National Police Services but includes representatives from many other Canadian police forces. NWEST uses data in the Canadian Firearms

Information System (CFIS) to help trace firearms. The network also offers information sessions to police officers with respect to the Canadian Firearms Program, CFRO and the Firearms Interest Police (FIP) database.

CANADIAN FIREARMS PROGRAM AT WORK

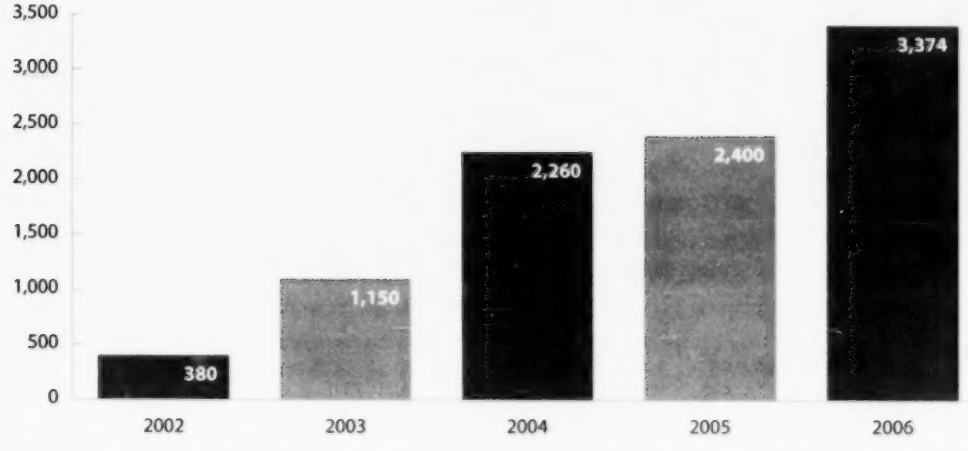
In September 2006, with the support of NWEST and CFRO, police in Montreal were able to identify the shooter at Dawson College, along with the types of firearms he possessed, by cross-referencing data on licence plates of vehicles parked in the vicinity with data in the Canadian Firearms Information System. Furthermore, a photograph of the suspect obtained through the system assisted on-site investigators.

To ensure the information in CFIS is an effective tool for police, the CAFC is committed to providing high-quality data. New and enhanced quality assurance and verification processes were put in place in 2006, with particular attention paid to standardizing client addresses and eliminating duplicated data.

The CAFC also supports the criminal-justice system by providing affidavits to assist with the prosecution of offences. Typically, affidavit requests are to determine what firearms an individual has registered to them or to determine if a particular firearm is registered. Providing the results of these searches in an affidavit in lieu of attending and presenting findings in court results in significant cost savings for the CAFC.

The number of affidavits produced for legal proceedings has continued to increase over the past four years. In 2006, 3,374 affidavits were produced—almost ten per day. This represents an increase of almost 1,000 affidavits over the previous year.

Chart 9 **AFFIDAVIT REQUESTS** 2002-2006



F. International

One of the main objectives of the Canadian Firearms Program is to combat the illicit trafficking and smuggling of firearms. The *Firearms Act* includes legislative controls over the import and export of firearms. Separate offences for smuggling and trafficking are included in the *Criminal Code*.

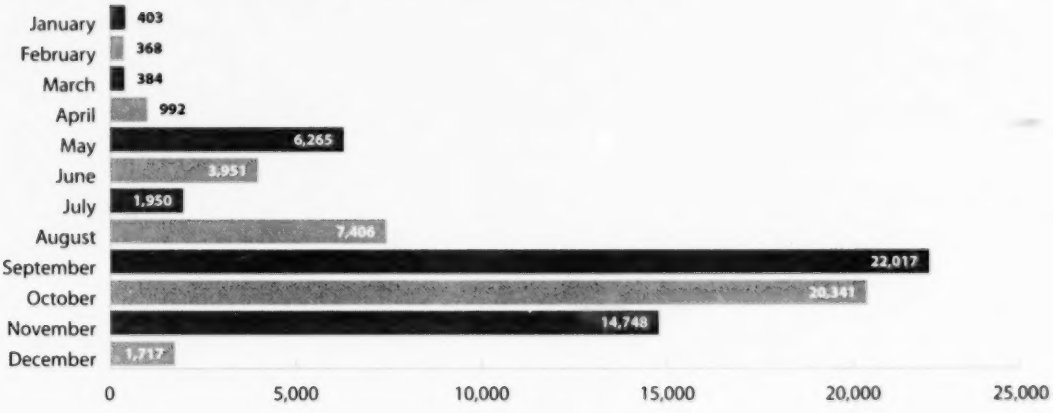
Canadian residents and businesses need a valid firearms licence to bring firearms into Canada. They must also register the firearms before importing them. Non-residents who wish to bring firearms into Canada temporarily have two options: they may obtain a Canadian firearms licence and register the firearm in Canada or they may submit a non-resident firearms declaration and have it confirmed by a customs officer at the point of entry. A confirmed non-resident firearms declaration has the effect of a licence for the non-resident and a registration certificate for the firearms for up to 60 days.

Non-residents who bring a restricted firearm into Canada for target-shooting events or other lawful purposes must also obtain an Authorization to Transport (ATT) from the Chief Firearms Officer responsible for the province or territory where they enter Canada.

The CAFC works closely with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to ensure cross-border travellers comply with the *Firearms Act*. Before allowing a non-resident to bring firearms into Canada, CBSA will also conduct a risk assessment of the individual and their reason for wanting to bring firearms to Canada.

As Chart 10 shows, the majority of temporary firearms imports by non-residents occurred during the fall hunting season. Only 252 ATTs were issued to non-residents to allow the temporary import of restricted firearms for an approved purpose such as taking part in a target-shooting competition.

Chart 10 **TEMPORARY FIREARMS IMPORTATIONS BY NON-RESIDENTS** 2006



International relations

In 2006, the CAFC continued to support the RCMP's focus on internationally integrated policing. It worked with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) as a member of the Canada–U.S. Firearms Trafficking Consultative Group. In November, the Director General of the CAFC co-chaired the Canada-U.S. Consultative Group on Firearms Trafficking at the Cross Border Crime Forum held in North Carolina, USA, where both countries reaffirmed commitments dealing with firearms-related issues.

Joint co-operation has led to the development of initiatives to combat firearms trafficking. Two such initiatives in 2006 were the publication of the *Firearms Trafficking Overview* as a public document and a joint awareness initiative related to firearms at border crossings. The *Overview* restates the ongoing commitment to fight the illegal movement of firearms and provides a snapshot of general trends and shared public-safety concerns. Under the joint awareness campaign and with the co-operation of CBSA, a firearms-information poster was posted at land, sea and air border crossings within Canada. The same poster will also appear at U.S. crossings.

The U.S. Attorney General and the Minister of Public Safety Canada signed a memorandum of understanding between the ATF and the RCMP regarding the accessibility of forensic firearms data. This agreement will enable the electronic sharing of forensic ballistic information and enhance joint efforts in fighting firearms crime. The development of an electronic interface between the Canadian Integrated Ballistic Identification Network (CIBIN) and the U.S. National Integrated Ballistic Identification Network (NIBIN) that began in 2005, continued throughout 2006 and is expected to be implemented in the coming year.

In late 2006, the ATF and some neighbouring U.S. police organizations met with Canadian law-enforcement agencies in Montreal to share international firearms intelligence. The purpose of this conference was to improve officer knowledge about policies and procedures, as well as assistance in tracing firearms that will assist in the solving of cases.

OUR COMMITMENT

IV

The CAFC receives and collects specific personal information from Canadian firearms owners in the course of administering the *Firearms Act* and its regulations and delivering the Canadian Firearms Program. This is done in a manner consistent with the federal *Privacy Act*, the *Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* and other relevant legislation, including provincial legislation where the Chief Firearms Officer is provincially appointed.

COMMUNICATING WITH CLIENTS

Effective communication with clients is essential for ensuring that they understand their obligations under the *Firearms Act*, firearm-safety practices and the role of the Canadian Firearms Program in protecting public safety. The CAFC uses a variety of tools to communicate with its clients and enable them to communicate with the CAFC in either official language. One of the most important communications tools is its website at **www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca** where many information products and forms are posted.

The CAFC also operates a toll-free telephone number **(1-800-731-4000)** that can be used by Canadians or potential visitors from the United States to request information, application forms or assistance. The CAFC also responds to enquiries submitted by e-mail, surface mail or fax.

The CAFC responded to well over one million enquiries from the public in 2006. Many of these were requests for clarification of program changes announced by the Government of Canada. As in other years, there were also a number of enquiries about matters such as the status of a licensing or registration application and the importing or exporting of firearms. Others were requesting general information on the program, its costs and its administration.

Every year, firearms officers from the provincial offices attend outdoor sport and trade shows, hunting and fishing association events and similar gatherings to provide information to individuals, businesses and the general public about the *Firearms Act* and the Canadian Firearms Program. These events also provide another opportunity for clients to express specific service concerns and provide feedback on the delivery of the program.

The CAFC publishes fact sheets to inform individuals about how the *Firearms Act* applies to air guns, restricted or prohibited firearms, antique firearms, inherited firearms, importing firearms and the selling or giving of a firearm to someone else. These fact sheets are distributed at sport and trade shows

and in response to public enquiries. They are also posted on the CAFC's website. In 2006, many of the fact sheets were updated to reflect program changes announced by the Government of Canada.

A poster highlighting the amnesty and the waiver of licence-renewal fees was distributed to firearms businesses and shooting clubs across Canada in July 2006. A public notice with similar information was published in approximately 200 newspapers and a selection of outdoor magazines. The public notices primarily targeted rural areas, where a larger percentage of the population possess non-restricted rifles and shotguns.

The CAFC continued to issue bulletins to assist, support and guide key target groups, including police and other public agencies, firearms businesses, shooting clubs and ranges, and outfitters. A total of 18 bulletins was sent to inform these specialized audiences of new services and guide them through program changes that might affect them and their clients.

Program Delivery

Like other RCMP service lines, the CAFC is committed to ongoing improvement and innovation to achieve the highest levels of service, compliance, efficiency and overall effectiveness.

In 2006, the CAFC continued its efforts to inform and educate clients about their responsibilities under the *Firearms Act*. More than 602,838 notices were sent to clients about their need to renew a licence, their eligibility to possess certain prohibited handguns and legislative or regulatory changes that affected them.

Despite an overall decline in the number of licence holders, licence transactions increased in 2006 compared to the previous two years. This increase may be attributed primarily to the fact that a larger number of licences came due for renewal in 2006.

A decrease in registration applications, which include new imports and the transfer and registration of firearms to new owners, is the result of fewer firearms changing hands in 2006.

Table 10 **LICENCE AND REGISTRATION TRANSACTIONS** 2004-2006

Type of transaction	2004	2005	2006
Licences issued (including renewals)	90,249	207,588	346,700
Registration certificates issued (including transfers)	658,812	739,087	612,026

Source: CAFC

The CAFC made every effort to help firearms owners comply with the law by continuing to accept applications from individuals who had missed the registration deadline of December 31, 2002, even if they were not protected by the amnesty for licensed and previously licensed owners of non-restricted firearms.

SERVICE OPTIONS

As indicated in Table 11, the CAFC offers clients a variety of options for obtaining information and complying with the *Firearms Act*.

Table 11 **SERVICE OPTIONS**

Service	Internet	Telephone	Paper
General enquiries	X	X	X
Order or download forms	X	X	X
Apply for a licence			X
Apply to register an unregistered firearm	X		X
Transfer registered firearms to new owners*	X	X	X
Enquire about application status	X	X	
Verify a firearm (also in person)		X	X
Apply for an authorization to transport**		X	X
Submit a change of address	X	X	X

Source: CAFC

* must involve a business if done on the Internet
** non-residents must apply by telephone

Contribution programs

Working with opt-in jurisdictions

The CAFC continues to fund provinces that have chosen to administer the Canadian Firearms Program within their own jurisdictions. This funding supported the activities for which the provincial Chief Firearms Officers are responsible.

The CAFC's service-delivery model is an integral part of federal-provincial agreements. The CAFC continues to set national standards for the delivery of the Canadian Firearms Program. These standards undergo constant review to ensure their continuing relevance to the program.

Working with Aboriginal peoples

During 2006, in alignment with RCMP priorities, the CAFC continued to engage Aboriginal people in the Canadian Firearms Program and financially support Aboriginal projects designed to improve individual and community safety.

With CAFC support, the Red Sky Métis Independent Nation continued its successful outreach service to First Nation and Métis communities throughout northern Ontario. Over 2,000 Aboriginal people living in remote, rural and urban locations received outreach services, including licence-application assistance. Approximately 500 men and women successfully completed the Canadian Firearms Safety Course in 2006.

Funding from CAFC also enabled the Tribal Chiefs Peacekeeping–Conservation Commission to successfully implement firearms-safety education as a key element of the on-reserve, school curriculum among six Treaty 6 First Nations in east-central Alberta. This unique model of firearms-safety education has also been adapted for use by on-reserve schools of four Treaty 6 First Nations in west-central Saskatchewan.

The Chief Firearms Officers are responsible for administering the *Aboriginal Peoples of Canada Adaptations Regulations (Firearms)*, which make it easier for hunters from Aboriginal communities to obtain a firearms licence. For example, to enable licence applicants from Aboriginal communities to meet the safety-training requirements, the regulations make alternative certification more readily available to those who are at least 18 and have a basic knowledge of firearms laws and safe-firearms practices.

Working with community non-profit organizations

In 2006, the CAFC helped fund a University of New Brunswick study into the link between firearms in the home and rural women's decision to stay in or leave an abusive relationship. Research projects such as this support the CAFC's role as a policy advisor for the Government of Canada.

Multi-year perspective on program costs

The CAFC's annual operating expenditures for fiscal year 2006-2007 were $76.6 million.

The CAFC's funding through the RCMP's *Main Estimates* for 2007-2008 was set at $70.4 million including a collective-bargaining allocation provided by Treasury Board. CAFC activities are funded through two separate program activities: Registration, Licensing and Supporting Infrastructure ($66.5 million) and Policy, Regulatory, Communication and Portfolio Integration ($3.9 million).

Also included within those amounts is $12.7 million in contribution funding to meet transfer payments to those provinces that have chosen to administer the *Firearms Act* within their jurisdictions on behalf of the federal government, and funding for Aboriginal and other communities or organizations to facilitate compliance with the *Firearms Act*. Statutory funds to meet CAFC's obligations with respect to employee benefits plans equaled $3.9 million.

Reporting to Parliament and to the Public/Management Accountability Framework

In October 2006, the CAFC's 2005-2006 *Departmental Performance Report (DPR)* was tabled in Parliament. The report represents the last DPR for CAFC as an independent agency. Going forward, the RCMP is committed to continue reporting to Parliament and to the public on the Canadian Firearms Program in its mandatory reports such as *Public Accounts*, *Main Estimates*, *Departmental Performance Reports*, and *Reports on Plans and Priorities*. The 2006-2007 *Reports on Plans and Priorities* contained a special chapter on the CAFC and the Canadian Firearms Program.

As well, the Public/Management Accountability Framework has been integrated with that of the RCMP.

MOVING FORWARD

The RCMP is committed to enhancing the Canadian Firearms Program and public safety. In the coming years, the RCMP and the CAFC will continue to focus on the following priorities:

Optimize the public-safety benefits of the Canadian Firearms Program

The RCMP will improve service to its diversified clientele, including police organizations, firearms owners, safety groups, firearms organizations and the general public, and educate them about the benefits of the Canadian Firearms Program.

Enhance support to law enforcement

The RCMP will continue to enhance support to law-enforcement agencies in their efforts to deal with firearms-related crimes and protect public safety. In particular, the CAFC will expand its operational-support function and presence in investigations of organized crime involving firearms.

Support continued compliance with the law

To reduce firearms-related crime and injury, the RCMP will promote compliance with the *Firearms Act* and its related legislation through collaboration with Chief Firearms Officers, provinces, federal partners, police organizations, firearms owners and other public-safety officials.

Engage the public, partners and other communities

The RCMP will expand public awareness and understanding of the Canadian Firearms Program through specific outreach activities that support achievement of the objectives of the *Firearms Act* and related legislation.

Improve service delivery and client service

The CAFC will improve its ability to respond to the needs of individuals, businesses, law-enforcement agencies and other partners regarding firearms control in a variety of ways. These include the continued implementation of a new licence-renewal infrastructure with simplified licence application forms and streamlined processes. Other measures will include improved data quality and integrity and providing relevant, timely and accessible client services and information through numerous transactional channels.

Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of internal operations

The CAFC will pursue greater integration with other National Police Services (NPS) programs. Alignment with NPS programs provides opportunities to serve the broader law-enforcement community in a more streamlined manner. Integration of administration activities such as finance, human resources and information-technology systems will provide an economy of scale and greater effectiveness in the medium to long term.